

WILLIAM SODEN.

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JANUARY 28, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 3059.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, having considered the bill (S. 3059) granting a pension to William Soden, adopt the following Senate report and recommend the passage of the bill:

This soldier enlisted on the 17th day of April, 1861, for three months, in pursuance of the first call for volunteers, and served until the expiration of that enlistment, August 21, 1861, as a private in Company K, First Regiment Wisconsin Infantry Volunteers. He reenlisted in 1862, and served as a sergeant of Company E, Twenty-third Regiment Wisconsin Infantry from the 24th of July, 1862, until the 21st of June, 1865. He was captured at the battle of Mansfield, La., on the 8th day of April, 1864, and held in Camp Ford Prison, Texas, until May 17, 1865, when he was paroled; thence sent North and mustered out June 21, 1865. He served in the campaign against Vicksburg and in the operations in the Southwest. He was a good soldier with no blemish on his record.

He claims a pension by reason of deafness induced by his service, caused by it, and by reason of the results of malarial poisoning. The Pension Office rejected the claim upon the ground, as stated, that there was no disability since filing claim.

The proofs taken by different examiners of the Pension Office are abundant and ample to show that the claimant suffered from malarial fever while in the service, and that he contracted deafness in the same service, and during his imprisonment deafness was developed to a serious degree. He was in hospital by reason of sickness in 1863, and treated at different times. The testimony of numerous comrades and of his captain leaves no question of the genuineness of every claim made by this claimant. He is an upright and excellent citizen, a carriage maker, and now about 60 years old. The board of pension surgeons nearly six years ago found his hearing to be but one twenty-fifth with right ear and but eight twenty-fifths with left. They found him still marked with the effects of jaundice and malarial fever. Why he was not pensioned on these proofs your committee fail to understand.

There can be no doubt of his right to pension. He was a good soldier, and your committee think the bill should pass as proposed, especially as he seems to have been entitled to pension since 1890, and this bill will pension him only from its passage.

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